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AD/RR

4 February 1957

Acting Ch/G/RR

Comments on OCI Map 70000, "Graphic Presentation of Middle East Oil Situation as of October 1956"

1. Many serious errors of fact and presentation appear in this map, the details of which are contained in Enclosure 1. General comments are as follows:

a. So far as I can determine, the map was a completely unilateral undertaking. Our records show that OCI queried the Cartography Division in August 1956 on the prospects for revising the existing map on Middle East oil (Map No. 12382 attached as Enclosure 2). The D/GC response was that no revision was likely for at least six months in view of anticipated workloads. OCI did not accompany its query with a statement of priority of need, and nothing more was heard of the matter.

b. The map appears to have taken considerable information from CIA Map No. 25330 (Enclosure 3) and a map periodically put out by the magazine Oil Forum.

c. Cartographically, Map 70000 leaves much to be desired, probably due in equal measure to hasty production and insufficient application of cartographic principles.

d. Substantively, the map exhibits the unfortunate results of production without coordination. The Near East/Africa/Western Hemisphere Branch was at no time contacted by OCI for assistance in the research of data, despite the fact that the branch is responsible for most of the basic research conducted on the area. Other recent occasions in which non-coordination on oil matters led to inadequate intelligence in OCI publications are cited in Enclosure 4.


e. It is our feeling that while the map makes a start at consolidating our company-relationship material for the area and that it is unclassified, it makes very little contribution to the knowledge or presentation of oil information on the Middle East.

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2. I believe that a protest to the AD/CI is in order. The map violates minimal requirements for assuring the accuracy and pertinency of intelligence prior to dissemination. It also presents the confusing situation of two shops making and distributing maps within CIA.

3. If sufficient priority can be assigned, the Geographic Area will undertake the revision of CIA Map No. 12382 incorporating the company identification data.

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Enclosures: 1 - Specific comments on OCI Map 70000

2 - CIA Map No. 12382, 2-53

3 - Map No. 25338, 3-56 (Supersedes 12428, 1-53)

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subject: Information on Oil in the Middle East in
Current Intelligence Weekly Summary for 20 December 1956
(Copy of Part II, and Part III attached.)

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OCB/G/RR [REDACTED] :mmk(2800)

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